

PATENT SPECIFICATION

DRAWINGS ATTACHED

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Improvements in or relating to Boxes or Cases

We, GILLES LAUR, of 34, Allée Marceau, Livry-Gargan, Seine et Oise, France and JACQUES CERONI, of 18, Allée des Mésanges, Les Pavillons-sous-Bois, Seine, France, both French Citizens do hereby declare the invention for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

Boxes or cases are generally closed by a lid connected to the base thereof by a hinge, a suitable closing means being provided to secure the lid in relation to the base.

In order to open the box or case, it is necessary to operate the closing means and to pivot the lid about the hinge. These movements generally necessitate the use of both hands, especially when the box is small and takes the form, for example, of a jewel case or cigarette case. Moreover, the lid cannot be retained in any desired open position without special provision.

The present invention relates to a parallelepipedic box or case enabling the hereinabove mentioned disadvantages to be remedied, and which is easily made and manipulated.

The invention consists in a parallelepipedic box or case comprising a base and a flat lid, wherein the lid is mounted to slide with respect to the base by means of at least one planar curvilinear groove concave towards the base and extending from one part of the base towards an opposed part.

The groove may extend from the rear part of the box or case towards the front part thereof.

If desired, an intermediate tray is slidably mounted with respect to the lid and pivotally mounted with respect to the base. This arrangement enables the intermediate tray to be disengaged from the base, during the open-

ing of the box, for presentation of the contents, especially cigarettes.

In order that the invention may be more clearly understood, reference will now be made to the accompanying drawings which show one embodiment thereof by way of example, and in which:—

Figure 1 shows a perspective view of a cigarette case made according to the invention.

Figure 2 shows a partial sectional view along the line II—II of Figure 1, and

Figure 3 shows a perspective exploded view of the separate elements composing the case shown in Figures 1 and 2.

Referring to the drawings, there is shown a rectangularly shaped cigarette case which essentially comprises a lid 1 mounted on a base 2. The base 2 has side walls 3 and 4 which are each provided with a curvilinear groove 5 which is concave towards the base and which extends from the rear wall 6 towards the front wall 11 of the case, the rear and front walls 6 and 11 connecting the side walls 3 and 4.

The centre of curvature of each groove is located in the plane of its associated side wall.

The lid 1 also comprises two side walls 7 and 8, which may be juxtaposed to the walls 3 and 4, in order to form the sides of the case.

The walls 7 and 8 are connected by a rear wall 19 and a front wall 21 which may be juxtaposed to the walls 6 and 11 of the base, in order to form front and rear panels of the case.

The walls 7 and 8 each comprise an inwardly-directed flange or lip 9 for engagement in the corresponding groove 5.

The side walls 3 and 4 each comprise in addition, an inwardly-directed flange or lip

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10 extending between the front wall 11 of the base 2 and the front end of the corresponding groove 5. These flanges or lips 10 are each intended to receive one of the inwardly-directed flanges or lips 12 of the side walls 7 and 8 of the lid 1, in order to limit the travel of the lid.

The rear wall 6 of the base 2 comprises hook-shaped tongues 13, the ends of which are upwardly directed. These tongues 13 are for engagement in openings 14 arranged in the rear wall 15 of a part 16 hereinafter referred to as an intermediate tray. This tray 16 comprises side walls 17 each having a clip 18 extending to the inwardly turned edges or lips 12 of the lid. The clips 18 are for engagement between the flanges or lips 12 of the lid 1 and the upper surface of said lid.

When the box is closed, the intermediate tray 16 rests on the base 2 of the box.

In order to open the box, the lid 1 is moved rearwardly with respect to the base 2. This movement causes the lips 9 to slide in the grooves 5 and causes the lid to pivot with respect to the base. Simultaneously, the intermediate tray 16 pivots about tongues 13 and the clips 18 slide on the lips 12 of the lid.

When the box is completely opened, the clips 18 abut against the front wall 21 of the lid 1. The box then occupies the position shown in Figure 1.

In order to close the case, it is only necessary to move the lid 1 in the reverse direction with respect to the base 2 until the lid has reached its initial position. It must be noted that both opening and closing are very easy to effect; in fact, when the case is small, it is only necessary to place the thumb on the base and the fingers on the lid, the opening or closing being effected by a simple movement of the fingers with respect to the thumb.

In order to obtain a better grip of the fingers on the lid, the latter advantageously comprises a relief pattern 20 which may be constituted by grooves or ribs which may moreover be used to enhance the appearance of the case.

The case described above may be used in a variety of ways. One particular use is as a cigarette case, as shown in the drawings, and for this purpose, the intermediate tray 16 is

fluted to provide a plurality of grooves for the retention of cigarettes. It will be apparent that when the case is opened, the cigarettes located in the grooves in the tray 16 may be offered in an aesthetically pleasing manner.

It will be apparent that various modifications may be made to the specific details referred to: for example, the shape and length of the grooves 5, the shape of the case or box, the nature of the materials employed in its construction, and the use to which it may be put, may be varied as desired.

For example, the box or case may be of circular shape if desired, the base having a central groove similar to the grooves 5, and located above the base extending along part of a diameter thereof, enabling the lid to be guided during its movement.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A parallelepipedic box or case comprising a base and a flat lid, wherein the lid is mounted to slide with respect to the base by means of at least one planar curvilinear groove concave towards the base and extending from one part of the base towards an opposed part.

2. A box or case as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plane of said curvilinear groove is substantially perpendicular to the plane of the base.

3. A box or case as claimed in claim 1 or 2, which has a rectangular shape, the base having two side walls, each of which includes a curvilinear groove.

4. A box or case as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein an intermediate tray is slidably mounted with respect to the lid and pivotally mounted with respect to the base.

5. A box or case as claimed in claim 4, wherein the intermediate tray is pivotally hooked to the rear wall of the base and has two symmetrical side clips, respectively resting on and co-operating with two inwardly turned side edges of the lid.

6. A box or case, particularly a cigarette case, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

BARON & WARREN,
16, Kensington Square,
London, W.8.,
Chartered Patent Agents.

